ABSTRACT

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To equalize the performance of multiple channels travelling along diverse subsets of a main optical path, a channelspecific figure of merit for each channel is determined and a site-specific figure of merit for each site which is a drop The channelsite for at least one channel is determined. specific figure of merit for a particular channel could be a figure of merit (such as OSNR, Q or BER) for that channel at the particular channel's drop site, while the site-specific figure of merit for a particular drop site may be the average figure of merit for all channels received at the particular Equalization is then achieved by adjusting the power of each channel as a function of the difference between the channel-specific figure of merit for that channel and the site-specific figure of merit for that channel's drop site. Because measurements at each channel's drop site play a role in determining the power adjustment used for that channel, by that channel is taken path taken actual consideration during the equalization process.